P.W 4/14/75 A CLASSIC - IF INADVERTANT - EVALUATION OF A WORK WHOSE "ASSUMPTION" VITIATES ITS "THESIS."

and 55,000 in the Delta paperback edition.

Knopf reports that Rima and Richard Collins's "The New Orleans Cook Book" (March 14, $10) has been selling particularly well in that city. Just before publication the title went back to press for a third time, for a total of 21,000 copies in print.

In high and continuing demand is Arizona University Press' colorful "Southwest Indian Craft Arts" ($15), a 1968 title by Clara Lee Tanner which has more than 18,000 copies in print after five press runs.

Macmillan's "Three Out of Four Wives: Widowhood in America" (April 21, $7.95) by Alfred Allan Lewis and Barrie Berns, has gone into a second printing before publication for a total of 12,500 copies in print. The authors will begin a national tour immediately following publication, adds their publisher.

Arlington House reports that it has gone back to press with "Bix: Man and Legend" ($12.95) by Richard M. Sudhalter and Philip R. Evans. The title, nominated for a National Book Award, now has a total in print of 8000 copies.

Over at Harper's Magazine Press, a new novel by Iain Macnab was sent back to press before publication April 2. "The 42nd Year of Mrs. Charles Prescott" ($7.95) reportedly reached the 8000-copy in-print mark.

Straight Arrow Books has ordered a first printing of 40,000 copies of its "authorized, unexpurgated" edition of Richard Anger's "Hollywood Babylon" (May 22, $14.95). The reissue of the classic exposé which discusses the film capital's 50-year history of "violence and decadence" has been made a selection of the Playboy Book Club; rights in England have been sold to Macmillan for hardcover and to Pan for paperback reprint publication.

Book clubs: One of the British Royal Family's favorite mystery writers, says Harper & Row, is Dick Francis, whose latest effort, "Knockdown" ($6.95) has been chosen by the Detective Book Club for June-July. This Harper Novel of Suspense has also been designated a BOMC alternate. Publication is scheduled for April 23.

"The Gentle Tasaday" ($15) by John Nance, to be published May 16 by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, will be an August alternate selection of the Behavioral Science Book Club, for a total of five book club taps; others are the Literary Guild, Psychology Today, Natural Science and Library of Science. Nance will visit and tour the U.S. to promote the book at publication time (see *PW* review, 2/24).

America's first native-born saint, Mother Elizabeth Bayley Seton, will soon be canonized, and to coincide with that event Farrar, Straus & Giroux will reissue "Mrs. Seton" (August, $12.95, paper $4.95) by Father Joseph I. Dirvin. The revised version, which will contain a new foreword by Terence Cardinal Cooke, will also feature the proclamation of canonization and will contain photographs, a bibliography and an index.

LITTLE, BROWN CLAIMS DEFINITIVE (?) BOOK ON DR. KING'S ASSASSIN

Calling it the "first definitive biography" of the alleged assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, Little, Brown reports it has scheduled the publication of "James Earl Ray: An American Life" for the fall. The book about the man who once pleaded guilty to the murder of King and now insists that he was coerced into that plea is being written by George McMillan, a former Lasker Fellow in Civil Rights and Guggenheim Fellow who has contributed civil rights articles to many national magazines.

According to Little, Brown, the assumption of the biography is that Ray committed the crime and acted alone. McMillan, says his publisher, has been preparing the book for five years and has talked at length with Ray's family, his friends, his fellow convicts, school teachers and social workers and consulted many psychiatrists about Ray's life.

A female editor in a publishing house inherits an old brownstone in Brooklyn Heights, and mysterious events occur. Sound intriguing? That's the premise of "Moncrieff," the new Gothic from Weybright and Talley's Isabelle Holland, author of "Kilgaren" and "Trelawny." The book is "her best and most exciting" to date, says Weybright and Talley, and is scheduled for early fall publication.

A major departure for popular novelist Jean Plaidy (who also writes as Victoria Holt and Philippa Carr) will be her first nonfiction book, a lavishly illustrated biography of Mary, Queen of Scots, entitled "Fair Devil of Scotland." Putnam reports it will publish the biography in June at $15.95. Another Plaidy first for Putnam will be "Beyond the Blue Hills" ($8.95). Unlike most of Ms. Plaidy's novels, which usually revolve around the lives of great queens and princesses, this August release is the story of how the evils of the 18th and early 19th centuries "affected the lives of three generations of women in a world of crime and horror, dirt and luxury."

Over at Arco, two books are being issued about vehicles: "Bicycling for Fun and Health" and "Great Automobile Designs." The first title will be published on April 21 in a $5.95 hardcover edition and in a $3.95 paper edition and contains hints for easier riding, such as safety measures, how to select a bike, where to buy it and how to take care of it while it's helping to improve your health. "Great Automobile Designs" (March, $12) is a

TOP SELLERS FROM TIME LIFE BOOKS

1 **FOLIAGE HOUSE PLANTS** (TIME-LIFE Encyclopedia of Gardening) $7.95

2 **FLOWERING HOUSE PLANTS** (TIME-LIFE Encyclopedia of Gardening) $7.95

3 **THE BEST OF LIFE** $19.95

4 **VEGETABLES AND FRUITS** (TIME-LIFE Encyclopedia of Gardening) $7.95

5 **THE COOKING OF CHINA** (Foods of the World) $8.95

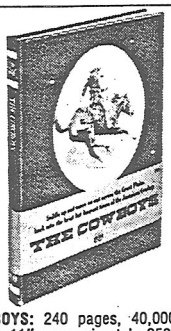
6 **THE COOKING OF GERMANY** (Foods of the World) $8.95

7 **THE PRINT** (LIFE Library of Photography) $9.95

8 **PERENNIALS** (TIME-LIFE Encyclopedia of Gardening) $7.95

9 **PHOTOGRAPHING NATURE** (LIFE Library of Photography) $9.95

10 **THE COWBOYS** (The Old West) $9.95



THE COWBOYS: 240 pages, 40,000 words, size 8½" x 11"; approximately 250 illustrations, many in full color, including rare period photographs, authentic reproductions and previously unpublished treasures; embossed, leather-like padded cover. $9.95

All titles listed are available through Little, Brown and Company, 34 Beacon St., Boston, Mass. 02106